

**COLUSA COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Public Meeting

June 13, 2000

A meeting of the Advisory Council for the Colusa County Children and Families Commission was held from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Colusa Indian Community Center, 50 Wintun Road, Colusa, California. Present: Judy Anderson, Priscilla Buchanan, Peggi Cooney, Kimberly Dolbow, Annie Doyle, Helen Fink, Carol Geyer, Dolores Gomez, Nolan Gonzales, Chris Gregory, Barbara Hankins, Sandy Huff, Charlette Lauppe, Rosa Mendoza, Tish Nerli, Nancy Parriott, Esperanza Ramirez, Susan Rawlins, Christy Scofield, Carvin Seals, Sr., Kay Sharpe, Maria Silva, Lorna Smallwood, Deneen Torres, Kevin Wheeler, and Bonnie Wilson.

Items discussed and actions taken in accordance with the publicly-posted agenda were as follows:

1. Review / update / enhance the list of existing community services and resources that are available to help address the early childhood development and family strengthening goals and objectives

The group reviewed a list of programs, services and other groups available in and to Colusa County residents that relate specifically to the needs of young children and their families. The initial list had been compiled as part of the assessment of community needs and resources conducted by the Children and Families Commission earlier this year. A number of corrections and additions were made to the list. The updated list, reflecting all group input, is attached to the minutes.

A suggestion was made to turn the resource list into a more comprehensive resource directory that includes addresses, phone numbers, and other information that tells people how to access services. It was noted that a Program Coordinator is being hired under a Small County Initiative grant that was recently received, and it is part of the contract with the Program Coordinator to develop such a directory. The information already compiled by the Children and Families Commission should serve as an excellent start.

2. Determine how to organize the Advisory Council participants to work on developing strategies to achieve the goals & objectives

A discussion occurred regarding how the group could best work together to define the strategies that should be pursued to achieve the goals and objectives established by the Commission. The consensus was that everyone should have the chance to participate on all topics. In other words, work should be done in a large group setting rather than breaking into small groups.

The approach that was adopted is to hold a series of four public meetings to develop the strategies – one meeting for each of the four overarching strategic results of Strong Families, Children Learning and Ready for School, Healthy Children, and Integrated, Consumer-Oriented, Accessible Services. A fifth and final meeting would then be held to review and finalize the consolidated results of the previous four meetings. In this way, people can participate in all meetings where they have interest in the subject area.

Information that will be compiled by Mike Smith, consultant to the Commission, and made available to Advisory Council members and other participants before each meeting:

- Description of the problems / needs to be addressed, with an emphasis of trying to “picture” the issues (put a face on the issues)
- List of known resources related to the strategic result being discussed, with as much information as possible regarding the total capacity and waiting lists for services
- List of possible strategies to consider, drawn on suggestions made during the town meetings and recent surveys as well as from best practices in other counties
- List of known funding options

3. Discuss how the group will work together and start working on strategy development

Evenings in general appear to work the best to maximize participation, and Tuesdays were preferred by the group. A schedule was set to meet every other Tuesday from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., with dates and topics as follows:

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| June 27 | Improved Child Development: Children Learning and Ready for School |
| July 11 | Improved Family Functioning: Strong Families |
| July 25 | Improved Child Health: Healthy Children |
| August 8 | Improved Systems: Integrated, Consumer-Oriented, Accessible Services |
| August 15 | Review and finalization of the consolidated results from the first four meetings (note: this meeting is schedule only one week after the previous meeting so that the work of the Advisory Council can be completed by the time school starts) |

Mike Smith will prepare an agenda for the first meeting and get notices out to everyone about the meeting schedule. Additional people to be invited to the next meeting, focused on Child Development, include the Director of Migrant Education, Kathy Davidson, Carole Ricci, Donna Krause, Michelle Mitchum, and Dale Martini.

Minutes prepared by Mike Smith, consultant to the Commission.